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## SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of John Burroughs, the distinguished naturalist; of Henry P. Cushing, professor of geology in Western Reserve University, and of Louis Compton Miall, the English biologist.

THE annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia and of the National Academy of Sciences at Washington were held toward the end of April. The evening lecture before the American Philosophical Society was given by Professor James H. Breasted, of the University of Chicago, whose series of lectures on "The Origins of Civilization" were recently printed in this journal. Prince Albert of Monaco gave the evening address before the National Academy of Sciences, and its Alexander Agassiz gold medal was conferred on him in recognition of his promotion of oceanographic research.

THE Albert medal of the Royal Society of Arts has been presented to Professor Albert Michelson, for his discovery of a natural constant which has provided a basis for a standard of length. The award was made last year, but the actual presentation was deferred until Professor Michelson could go to England to receive it.

DR. WILLIAM CROCKER, associate professor of botany in the University of Chicago, has been appointed director of the newly founded Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Yonkers, New York. He will enter on his work next autumn. The board of trustees of the new foundation will consist of three business men and three scientific men. Professor John M. Coulter, head of the department of botany at the University of Chicago, and Raymond F. Bacon, of the Mellon Institute of Pittsburgh, will be two of the scientific men, and these two will select the third.



From Punch.

NEWTON AND THE RELIC HUNTER: AN APPLE NOT A STONE